This Florida Wildlife Magazine Digital Preservation Project is developed with financial assistance provided by the: William H. Flowers, Jr. Foundation and the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc. through the Conserve Wildlife Tag grant program.
### In This Issue

- **Rat Being Stung** by Harold Peters - 4
- **Fire Ant And Wildlife In Florida** by Matt Whisenhunt - 5
- **Waterfowl News** - 8
- **Wading For Ducks** by George X. Sand - 10
- **Hunting Season Regulations** - 14
- **For Better Hunting** by Horace Lohin - 16
- **Throwing Via The Sky** by Cleveland Van Dresser - 20
- **Shoot Where They Ain’t** by Russell Tinsley - 22
- **Carve A Coconut Caller** by Don Shiner - 24
- **The Truth About Black Panthers** by Bob Dahnke - 26
- **Juvenile Arson** by John Donohoe - 28
- **Around The State** - 31
- **Best Gadgets For Hunter And Angler** by Paul MacAlester - 32
- **It Can Be Done** by Jim Reed - 36

### Departments

- **Florida Club News** - 6
- **Birdlife** - 38
- **Jr. Conservationist** - 46
- **Sportsman’s Bookshelf** - 43
- **Test and Tells** - 49

### Question Box

- **50**

Cover photo by Jake Johnson

---

**Florida Wildlife** is published monthly by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Single copy: $1.00. Subscription rate: $12.00 per year. Changes or address changes to be handled within 2 months. Unclaimed issues and unreturned subscription orders will be handled in accordance with our subscription terms. Copyright 1958, by Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Printed in the United States of America. Printed in Tallahassee, Fla., under the Act of Aug. 24, 1894.
Is it possible that

YOU ARE BEING STUNG?

By HAROLD PETERS, Technical Advisor, National Audubon Society

The danger to people has been emphasized beyond all need by the fact that the person allergic to the stings of fire ants just as a few persons are allergic to the stings of bees and wasps. Accounts to Dr. R. C. Jung of Tulane University School of Medicine only one death (of a small child) have been attributed to the stings of the imported fire ant. No deaths have occurred in Florida. Although 82 people have been said to have died in the past five years in the United States from stings by bees, wasps, and hornets (TDI Sept. 8, 1958) there is no campaign to eradicate these insects! Most persons consider the stings of the fire ant merely an annoyance, similar to the bite of a mosquito.

On the other hand, an alarming immediate kill of many kinds of wildlife results from the high toxicity of chemicals being used for fire ant control. Within a few hours after the insecticide is broadcast, by either aerial or ground equipment, large numbers of insects can be found dead. Many of these are the very beneficial ground beetles. Within a week or two dead birds and mammals are found, and freshly killed individuals can be picked up during the following several weeks. Some are found one or two months, and longer, after treatment. If the poison falls in streams or on ponds fish and other aquatic life are killed. All observers agree that very high kills of quail and rabbits, two important game species, occur. In fact, the quail population of some areas examined in Alabama, Georgia, and Texas, were entirely wiped out by kills. Farmers and cattlemen should know that many domestic and farm animals are killed by the insecticides.

In Decatur County, Georgia, a county where hundreds of acres are under treatment for fire ants, upon Florida, about 100 cattle died within a few weeks; 1,500 quail and other numbers of cotton, corn, soybeans, and many other farm animals. A reproductive failure in brood sows resulted from the treatment. In Harris County, Texas, three registered bulls and 12 blood stock from this area were killed on a farm, and 500 young cows many kinds of birds, mammals, and other wildlife.

How can any organism escape being killed? Herbicides and dieldrin are the chemicals most used for fire ant control. They are among the most dangerous and little known poisons, which are toxic to all life, birds, mammals, and other wildlife.

The Fire Ant Eradication Program

And Wildlife in Florida

By MATT WHISENHEUT, Scientist, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

The 1959 Florida Legislature appropriated $500,000.00 to assist in the Fire Ant Eradication Program. The bill was vetoed by Governor Farris but passed over his veto. The final plans were for the Federal Government to pay one-third of the cost, from a congression appropriation to the United States Department of Agriculture, the State governments to pay one-third, and the landowner to pay one-third. In Florida, the plans are for the USDA to provide a one-half and the State to pay one-half with the landowner paying the other. These appropriation amounts about one million dollars of entirely taxpayer's funds to be expended in Florida this fiscal year on the fire ant eradication program.

No funds were available to carry the execution of the program. The execution of the program was delegated to the Plant Pest Control Division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and to the Florida State Plant Board.

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission became involved when the extermination program of the parts of Georgia, Texas, Louisiana, and Texas reported almost complete annihilation of wildlife by insecticides used in the fire ant eradication program. How the insecticides being used in the program are reported to control fire ants for three to five years. How soon can wildlife reoccupy the treated areas? What are the long-term effects on wildlife? How are the populations of the birds, wildlife, small birds, plants, livestock, and human life important enough that these questions should have been answered before a super insecticide was dumped upon the land?

As a result of this information, the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission asked the agencies concerned to confine the insecticide to localized treatments with ground and aerial equipment. The use of aerial application was objectionable because of increased danger of erratic application. It was also asked that no large acreages be treated in a solid block by any method. Time was needed to study the effects of the insecticides on the poisoning of wildlife.

At this writing (the middle of September) the application of insecticides in Florida has been accomplished over a few thousand acres with little information gained on the effects on wildlife since the information of the applications has been made in residential areas and not on wildlife habitat. To date wildlife kills in Florida and Georgia have been small when compared to mortality witnessed in other states, but the application of the insecticides to wildlife habitat is just beginning.

Residents of Miami and Jay in Santa Rosa County have reported losses of cats, dogs, fisherman's worm beds, song birds, and chickens. They attributed the losses to the insecticides being used in the treatment of their cities for fire ants. These reported losses were not confirmed, nor were the losses examined for lethal doses of dieldrin. The Whitney study revealed that the insecticides being used were ineffective in residential areas.

About 780 acres of the Boys Industrial School land near Marianna in Jackson County was treated with dieldrin by ground application at the rate of two pounds of insecticide per acre. Almost immediately after the application dead fish, birds, mammals, and amphibians were found on the area. Specimens were taken and sent to a laboratory to determine the cause of death. These wildlife losses could not be accounted for to the insecticide until the analyses were completed, but no wildlife losses were found from adjacent untreated land.

Robert W. Harrington, Jr., and William Leipold reported on "Effects of Dieldrin on Fishes and Invertebrates of a Salt Marsh," in the January 1959 Journal of Wildlife Management. In their "Summary and Conclusions" they stated: "Two thousand acres of Florida salt marsh, traversed by 354,000 linear feet of ditches, were treated with dieldrin pellets that were air-distributed at one pound per acre, to destroy sandfly (Culicoides) larvae. "The fish kill was substantially complete. The minimum immediate chemical treatment of the marshes, exclusive of the Indian River shore line, computed by extrapolation of the kill data of a 1,100- and a 200-foot ditch segment, respectively, would have been 20-30 tons of fish, or about 1,175,000 fishes, at about 30 species. "The larger game and food fishes such as jacks, tarpon, snook, and other fishes next, and gobies fishes last. Crabs swept up and destroyed the moribund fishes, but next day we were dead themselves. Snails continued to devour fish carcasses. After two weeks, no trace remained of the litter of dead fish."

The Governor, President, National Audubon Society, said: "We can well understand that citizens suffer from the affected states are eager to have this troublesome insect controlled. But we doubt very much that they would be eager to have their country trampled upon with these lethal tricyclics. We know the extent to which they, their livestock, and which that consume the products produced in the area may suffer."
CONVENTION SCOREBOARD

The Florida Wildlife Federation passed resolutions endorsing and urging: 1. A special and extensive program of marine fisheries research in Florida.
2. Urging the 86th U.S. Congress to amend Federal Power Act to provide that no license affecting fish and wildlife resources shall be issued until plans for federal and state structures affecting fish and wildlife have been approved by Secretary of Interior.
3. Urging amendment of U.S. Public Law 660 to double authorizations for municipal sewage treatment grants under a Federal Water Pollution Control Program.
4. Endorsed objectives of Reuss-McGovern Bill and urged 86th Congress to enact similar legislation to eliminate Federal subsidies under the Agricultural Conservation program for draining wetlands valuable for wildlife.
5. Encouraged provision for additional southwest outlets for Lake Okeechobee.
6. Urged that applications of insecticides such as dieldrin and heptachlor for fire control and control be confined to experimental and spot treatment using ground application equipment. Dismissal of widespread application be undertaken until adequate research and studies are made.
7. Endorsed a uniform fresh-water fishing license for Florida.
8. Requesting U.S. Congress to adopt legislation similar to S. 4028 thus assuring preservation of wildlife.
10. Endorsing a special legislative appropriation to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission of $1,250,000 for fresh-water fisheries and recreation improvement.
11. Endorsed and sponsored State Legislation providing an alligator license, oarboat license, bait dealer’s license, commercial wildlife exhibitors Sunday hunting law.

Florida Conservation Council and the Florida Wildlife Federation were deeply interested in citizens was held.

The Florida Wildlife Federation, sponsored by Dr. H. R. Wilbur of Deland, which had sparked and inspired the entire conservation movement, drew considerable praise and appreciation from all delegates. The Convention meetings then wound up with the Saturday morning sessions, with the State Representative William V. Jessup holding forth on legislative interests, and C. R. Gemuth, vice-president of the Wildlife Management Institute, Washington, D. C.walding Florida’s conservation facilities.

CONVENTION NOTES

The Florida Wildlife Federation passed resolutions endorsing and urging:

1. A special and extensive program of marine fisheries research in Florida.
2. Urging the 86th U.S. Congress to amend Federal Power Act to provide that no license affecting fish and wildlife resources shall be issued until plans for federal and state structures affecting fish and wildlife have been approved by Secretary of Interior.
3. Urging amendment of U.S. Public Law 660 to double authorizations for municipal sewage treatment grants under a Federal Water Pollution Control Program.
4. Endorsed objectives of Reuss-McGovern Bill and urged 86th Congress to enact similar legislation to eliminate Federal subsidies under the Agricultural Conservation program for draining wetlands valuable for wildlife.
5. Encouraged provision for additional southwest outlets for Lake Okeechobee.
6. Urged that applications of insecticides such as dieldrin and heptachlor for fire control and control be confined to experimental and spot treatment using ground application equipment. Dismissal of widespread application be undertaken until adequate research and studies are made.
7. Endorsed a uniform fresh-water fishing license for Florida.
8. Requesting U.S. Congress to adopt legislation similar to S. 4028 thus assuring preservation of wildlife.
10. Endorsing a special legislative appropriation to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission of $1,250,000 for fresh-water fisheries and recreation improvement.
11. Endorsed and sponsored State Legislation providing an alligator license, oarboat license, bait dealer’s license, commercial wildlife exhibitors Sunday hunting law.

OFFICERS FOR 1958-59

Election of Florida Wildlife Federation Officers and District Vice-Presidents:

President—Dr. H. R. Wilbur, Deland
Executive Vice-President—Harold Robertson, Ft. Lauderdale
Recording Secretary—Doris Southwell, Ormond Beach
Treasurer—Fred Gill
First District Vice-President
Second District Vice-President—Courtney Roberts, Gainesville
Third District Vice-President— Cleve Baggett, Milton
Fourth District Vice-President—Sam DuBois, Miami
Executive District Vice-President—H. Ramsey, Ormond Beach

Florida Conservation Council and the Florida Wildlife Federation, both interested citizens was held.

The Florida Wildlife Federation, sponsored by Dr. H. R. Wilbur of Deland, which had sparked and inspired the entire conservation movement, drew considerable praise and appreciation from all delegates. The Convention meetings then wound up with the Saturday morning sessions, with the State Representative William V. Jessup holding forth on legislative interests, and C. R. Gemuth, vice-president of the Wildlife Management Institute, Washington, D. C.alding Florida’s conservation facilities.

Florida Conservation Council and the Florida Wildlife Federation, were deeply interested citizens was held.

The Florida Wildlife Federation, sponsored by Dr. H. R. Wilbur of Deland, which had sparked and inspired the entire conservation movement, drew considerable praise and appreciation from all delegates. The Convention meetings then wound up with the Saturday morning sessions, with the State Representative William V. Jessup holding forth on legislative interests, and C. R. Gemuth, vice-president of the Wildlife Management Institute, Washington, D. C.

Aldrich Elected President of International Group

Aldrich, who is director of the recently formed Fresh Water Fish Commission, had previously served as second and first vice-president of the International Association. Aldrich is a member of the Association, as well as the American Fisheries Society, since 1939. He began his conservation career in 1921 when he accepted a position with the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries. In 1928, he was appointed fish hatchery superintendent for the Governor Game and Fish Commission, and subsequently served in many divisions and departments of the Oklahoma agency.

In later years, he served as Director of fisheries for the Oklahoma Game Department, as supervisor of lakes management for the City of Tulsa, as biologist for the U. S. Corps of Engineers, and as acting director of the Oklahoma Game and Fish Department.

Besides his organizational activities with the International Association and Fish and Wildlife Society, he has served as Chairman of the Central Flyway as well as the North American Waterfowl Commission.

He was appointed director of the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission in April, 1956. He also serves as chairman of the Florida Interagency Conference and as executive director of the Florida Interagency Conference.

As president, Aldrich will preside over the International's 41st convention at Charleston, Florida, in September, 1959.
LESSEN THE LOSS

By PHIL BARSKE
Atlantic Waterfowl Council

"This is not going to add one more figure to the cripple-loss score."

Almost 5 million waterfowl will be lost and wasted this year unless something is done about it. In past years we must add 25% more kill to our annual hunting harvest because of wastage by crippling and unretrieved birds.

Crippling and wastage cuts heavily into our harvestable waterfowl crop and its cuts down on the survivors that make up our breeders.

Nation-wide studies have shown that crippled and non-retrieved losses range from 16 to 28 percent, with a disgusting national average of 25%.

Think of it, for every 100 ducks or geese knocked down, 25 are never recovered.

The principle causes of crippling loss are trigger-happy shooting, inability to judge distance, poor marksmanship, inability to judge the killing range of modern shells, poor sportsmanship and failure to retrieve birds.

For the last-named, the best cure is the use of a well-trained dog.

Surveys reveal that crippling and wastage varies widely with shooting conditions. Loss is heaviest in the early part of the season when vegetation is dense and when hunters, both novice and experienced, are a bit rusty on the marksmanship. Passing shooting, which calls for the highest degree of gunning skill, takes a much heavier toll of cripples than does or jump shooting.

No conservation agency, federal, state or private, can effectively control crippling loss. Only you, the individual who pulls the trigger, can effectively reduce this tragic waste which every year results in almost 1 million waterfowl down the rat-hole of indifferency and accident.

In 1958, let's adopt a simple plan to reduce "cripple wastage"—

1. Shoot only at birds at reasonably close range. When you hit there, you kill, and when you miss you clean.

2. Use a retriever — it adds to the sport and on cripple loss by more than half.

3. Think — a split second can mean a duck in the bag or a duck in the reeds.

DREAM YEARS HURT DIVING DUCKS

A man who knows ducks has deleted "bad if you bad" as weight loss from the past three years, records of the Department of the Interior show. This has led to regulations restricting hunting on 62 per cent of the divers — the canvasback and redhead — and a serious concern over other species.

This condition arises because conditions on their breeding grounds for the past three years have been exceptionally. The flight of these birds is reflected in both the winter survey and the nesting ground survey made by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Diving ducks — so named from their habit of diving as much as 20 or 30 feet for food in contrast with the food in shallow water — usually nest near or in the immediate vicinity of water. Ringneck ducks nest on the ground close to water. The favorite nesting site of the "can" and redhead is a rush or cattail swale and the nest itself is just inches above the water. Studies show that nesting success of 75 percent is not unusual when conditions are good but it drops down to less than 50 percent if the marsh dries during the nesting period.

Weather conditions on the prairies in the United States and Canada during the past three years have hit the diving ducks hard, eliminating nesting sites and reducing the hatch of those which did nest. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel consider the idea that these divers which did not nest in their traditional areas might have established a new breeding ground elsewhere in Canada's vastness as only a forlorn hope.

The bulk of the migratory waterfowl shot in the United States are raised on the prairies and pasturelands.

(Continued on Page 45)
A Florida Winter Vacation—

WADING FOR

By GEORGE X. SAND

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

JOE REESE COMPRESSES BIRDS WITH HIS NEPHEW, GEORGE MOCKBY.

"Excited? Who's excited?"

It was my own voice, shouted gleefully at no one in particular and hurled back into my face by the biting wind. Hip-deep in lake water, and leaning far over backward, I clung precariously to a flotilla of fragile marsh reeds with one hand while the cold Florida rain doused the new exposed neck of my parka. The three pintails, wild-eyed and streaking like jets, had actually whistled past within inches of my head as I'd ducked and spun about in a futile effort to draw a bead.

Too late, I'd barely gotten the safety off my auto-loading 12 before the big ducks were gone. It had taken but a split-second for the flashing birds to materialize out of the gray mist that shrouded Florida's big Lake Okeehobee. And, just as quickly, they'd disappeared again into the crowding wall of wet overcast, and I couldn't find them. All I had succeeded in doing was to unbalance myself, so that now I stood awkwardly with one canvas-shoed leg of my Hodgman's securely snugged in the heavily grasped bottom.

As I bent over to clear the wader shoe a pair of green-winged teal zipped in for a splash landing. Scarcely twenty feet away, the wary little birds rode high on the water. I could see them clearly through the reeds as the brisk northeast wind swept in from the open lake to curl back the ends of their mottled brown tail and back feathers.

They could see me, too. Still doubled over sharply at the middle—the position into which I'd frozen upon their unexpected arrival—I probably resembled an oversized Everglades buzzard that had gone wandering and come down with the colic.

With one accord the teals bounded upward. Still tangled and off balance, I switched the 12 to my left hand. I'm right-handed.

"Wah-room!" Throwing lead from the hip like a mayor sheriff, I proceeded to give those ducks something to take back with them to the frozen Northern winds and tell their grandchildren on Liars' Night. The first load of chilled 6's did little more than cut a swirl through the tops of the wind-bent cattails. The second charge was still climbing as the fast little teal leveled off and really unwound themselves.

As usual, I let the third hull remain in the chamber unfired. I often wonder why I don't go back to a two-barrel scattergun.

Nevertheless, I stood there grinning like a pleased idiot as the cold, shot-like rain stung my face and the shifting gray scud continued to sail past silently overhead. Deep inside I knew I hadn't wanted to hit those teal. My hip shooting was the sort of silly performance one might have expected from the 12-year-old boy who was a member of our party, and whom I could see wading through the tall grass with his uncle far to my left.

Surely, it was not an act befitting a joy on the sober side of 40 . . .

The boy was named George, too. Watching him in action this morning on these wind-tossed duck marshes, I'd somehow felt the years slipping away from my own shoulders. I'd suddenly become an eager youth again myself, with my first shotgun; a kid with a pocket full of shells and a pair of blinking, excited eyes that tried to focus on every corner of the bird-filled sky at once.

Probably it was the setting, more than anything else, which added the happy illusion. Out over the wet face of the rain-peppered inland sea before me I could see thousands of wildfowl: pintails, mallards, sile, widgeon, scaup and ring-necks . . . immaculate flight.
135 miles over excellent, sparsely settled roads.) In other words, for the investment of a $20 bill — in addition to what would be your regular vacation expense anyway — the average Florida winter visitor can get himself in position to enjoy the kind of wildfowling we have come sadly to associate only with the "good old days."

You suspicion that this is laying it on rather thickly? No. Consider these facts: the same near-perfect water and weather conditions that have made Lake Okeechobee the finest largemouth bass setting in America also lend themselves ideally for the attraction and propagation of wildlife of all kinds. For one thing, the 730-square-mile sweetwater bonanza lies like the proverbial pot of gold waiting at the end of the rainbow for every duck that barrels down the Atlantic Flyway. The natural drainage is southward, through the length of the 400-mile-long peninsula — straight toward this big landlocked sea of fresh water which lies near the state's lower tip. The St. Johns and Kissimmee River valleys and connecting chain of central Florida lakes all serve as natural road signs pointing the way to Lake Okeechobee. Hence, to any undernourished and shivering quacker from the cold country need do follow his nose.

The birds are attracted by the fact the big lake represents WATER — sweet, clear, water, and plenty of it. It is so clear that most Florida bass fishermen and duck hunters using these still unspoiled reaches seldom bother to bring water bottles from home. In this unhappy era when most of the nation is suffering acutely from shortages, Florida remains blessed with an abundant supply for drinking and bathing; and — sadly — for wasting. In fact, as this is being written the state is in the midst of a $300 million bond construction program destined to prevent past dangers to the future and secure the water. Although we saw a very low water table in the state, the Army is this winter still classifying Lake Okeechobee as the largest reservoir in the United States. Atlantic flyway hunters have had this important fact handed down to them by previous generations of web-footed winter visitors.

The big lake is likewise blessed with an abundance of natural food and cover. A great variety of reeds and cattails and grasses — notably the succulent pop-grasses — exists along the shallow shorelines. Much to the bitter limit I heard of traffic on the lake's shoal waters extending out from the lake's shore for several miles at an even, croch-high level. You can wade thus for hours on end without once stepping into a hole. This fact in itself is invariably leave visitors convinced that a kindly Creator indeed looked not alone a single thing to bring joy to the hearts of outdoormen using this unique marsh paradise. I felt such joy as I sneaked within shooting range of the unsuspecting ducks in the reedy cove. I was close enough now to recognize them as baldpates. The males, with their white helmets and broad white wing covers, looked crisp and sharp against the stormy gray water.

I bad been prepared to be so close as so many of the clear-eyed, beautiful birds and yet here seems to remain helplessly unaware of one's presence. Had I decided to shoot into the midst of the gentle fowl, they would undoubtedly have killed a hundred, or dozen or more with the first blast. Instead, I found myself lowering the gun while I waited to see how long it would take for these usually wary American widgeon to disperse among the screening reeds. Unlike the alert earlier, they seemed to look right at me and yet me became alarmed. In fact, one little mottled female swam to within a bare couple gun lengths where I stood motionless behind the tall grass, then turned and moved unhurriedly away again.

On all sides the ever-present black Florida crows were chattering, so that they sounded almost like an army of bullied. They swam in 100-flock strings among the flooded tussocks. I witnessed this duck and duck hunting as we fed from the feeding baldpates, skylarks and sparrows. A thin line of similar brown and white birds was skimming the surface level. The loons were repeated — more of them this November 1958

Florida Wildlife

September 1958

Panther skins and other trophies, particularly the several dozen lunken mounted largemouth bass that covered one entire wall of the comfortable lodge's big living area. Uncle Joe would mount and hang there any bass that weighed in excess of six pounds, and it was George's secret ambition to one day have a trophy of his own hanging in this unique hall of fame. Meanwhile, there were those times when it proved difficult, indeed, for serious little George to convince his sixth grade teacher that a fellow just had to have a day off now and then to tend to things like fishing and hunting. Joe Reese's calm features and relaxed manner re

All that is asked of the sportsman is that he be properly licensed and obey the law. Here, a Florida Officer has netted over shallow water, courtesy of Fish and Wildlife.
February 1st. Hunting permitted every day.
5th District: November 15 through February 1st. Hunting permitted every day.
5th District: November 15 through February 1st. First six days open. December 25 through January 4th, Monday, Tuesday and Friday, CLOSED at all other times.

**RABBIT**

Both cottontails and swamp rabbits are declared to be game animals. There is no closed season for the taking of rabbits, and no daily bag or possession limit.

A hunting license is required to take rabbits during the regular open season for game animals and birds.

Rabbits may be taken at night under special permit issued by the Director of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission when the animals are found to be damaging personal property.

**TURKEY**

Daily bag limit 2; season bag limit 3.
1st District: November 15 through January 18, except counties of Hardee, Manatee, Sarasota, DeSoto, Polk (south of State Road 69), and Hillsborough (south of U. S. Highway 92), where the open season will extend from November 15 through November 29. Hunting permitted every day. Pinellas County CLOSED.
2nd District: November 15 through January 18, First six days open. December 25 through January 4th, Monday, Tuesday and Friday CLOSED at all other times, except Nassau County which will be CLOSED on Sunday and open on Monday.
3rd District: November 15 through January 18. Hunting permitted every day.

**DEER**

Deer must have at least one inch measuring five inches in length.
Daily bag limit 1; season bag limit 2.
1st District: November 15 through January 18. Counties of Hardee, Manatee, Sarasota, Pinellas, DeSoto, Polk (south of State Road #60), and Hillsborough (south of U. S. Highway #92) CLOSED.
2nd District: November 15 through January 4th. Fourth six days open. December 25 through January 4th. Monday, Tuesday and Friday CLOSED at all other times, except Nassau County where Sundays shall be CLOSED and Mondays open.
3rd District: November 15 through January 4th. Hunting permitted every day.

**SQUIRREL**

Daily bag limit 10, gray, two fox; no season’s bag limit.
1st District: November 15 through January 18. Hunting permitted every day.
2nd District: November 15 through January 18. First six days open. December 25 through January 4th, Monday, Tuesday, and Friday CLOSED at all other times.
3rd District: November 15 through January 18. Hunting permitted every day. SPECIAL GOURDIE SEASON, Elin Field, March 28 through April 5, 1/2-hour before sun.
4th District: November 15 through January 18. Hunting permitted every day.
5th District: November 15 through January 18. First six days open. December 25 through January 4th, Monday, Tuesday, and Friday CLOSED at all other times.

**MIGRATORY BIRDS**

*That part of Franklin Co. (Third District) east of State Road 30 and a line extending from the point where State Road 30 turns west to the water line including all of Alligator Point shall be closed to the taking of doves during the Oct. 4 through Nov. 2 portion of the dove season.

**HUNTING SEASON**

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

**GAME LAWS**

1958-1959

Road 18 and east of U. S. Highway 41 CLOSED.
2nd District: November 15 through January 11. Hunting permitted every day.
3rd District: November 15 through December 20 through January 4th. Hunting permitted every day.
4th District: November 15 through December 20 through January 4th. Hunting permitted every day.
5th District: November 15 through December 20 through January 4th. Hunting permitted every day.

**RAIL**

(marsh heron) and

**SNIPE**

Dec. 13 thru Jan. 11

**DOVE**

*October 4 thru Nov. 2, and Nov. 22 thru Dec. 31*

**SNIPES**

Dec. 13 thru Jan. 11

**DUC**

Nov. 22 thru Jan. 15

**GEESE**

Nov. 22 thru Jan. 15

**COOT**

Nov. 22 thru Jan. 15

Daily Possession: 15

Daily Possession: 30

**GALLINULE**

Sora rail-25

Dec. 13 thru Jan. 11

4

8

4**

8**

2

4

10

10

*Day’s bag of duck may include only one wood duck and only one hooded merganser. Possession limit of wood duck is 2, possession limit hooded merganser is 1. The daily bag limit of ducks may not include more than a merganser is 1. The daily bag limit of ducks may not include more than 1 canvassback and 1 redhead. (a) 2 canvassbacks, or (b) 2 redheads, or (c) 1 canvassback and 1 redhead.

**WOODCOCK**

Dec. 13 thru Jan. 11

**COOT**

Nov. 22 thru Jan. 15

15

10

**Species**

**Open Season**

**Daily Bag Possession**

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

NOVEMBER, 1958
This season while
enjoying hunting success, think of
those two magic letters P-R

They mean much in Florida's struggle
FOR BETTER
HUNTING

Florida's share of P-R money in fiscal year 1958
came to $237,316 (out of a national total of $1,831,000).
This amount was met by required matching funds
of $79,106 from the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, to provide a budget of $218,422.
With this financial support, the Game Management Division was able to report fiscal 1958 as one of Florida's most successful years in wildlife research and management.

The sponsors of the Pittman-Robertson Act realized that income from the sales of hunting and fishing licenses are practically the one and only source of funds for most state wildlife agencies. By the time the license fee money is split among law enforcement, controlled hunts, administration, information dissemination, and a dozen other vital activities, the share for wildlife management becomes pretty thin. Yet, they recognized, in this era of increased hunting pressure complicated by loss or destruction of natural habitats, the very survival of good hunting depends on good and ("adequately supported") game management.

So the Pittman-Robertson Act was passed, providing that the Federal government may provide three-quarters of the cost of approved management projects, with the individual states putting up the fourth quarter of the expense. Footing the bill at both Federal and State level is the hunter, the man who benefits directly from good game management by paying with his license and his gun and "sees" the cost of better hunting today and tomorrow.

Use of P-R funds is limited by law to (1) purchased development of lands for management purposes, (2) restoration of natural game habitats, (3) carrying out research leading to more effective management.

Florida's share of P-R money in fiscal year 1958 came to $237,316 (out of a national total of $1,831,000). This amount was met by required matching funds of $79,106 from the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, to provide a budget of $218,422. With this financial support, the Game Management Division was able to report fiscal 1958 as one of Florida's most successful years in wildlife research and management.

The sponsors of the Pittman-Robertson Act realized that income from the sales of hunting and fishing licenses are practically the one and only source of funds for most state wildlife agencies. By the time the license fee money is split among law enforcement, controlled hunts, administration, information dissemination, and a dozen other vital activities, the share for wildlife management becomes pretty thin. Yet, they recognized, in this era of increased hunting pressure complicated by loss or destruction of natural habitats, the very survival of good hunting depends on good and ("adequately supported") game management.

So the Pittman-Robertson Act was passed, providing that the Federal government may provide three-quarters of the cost of approved management projects, with the individual states putting up the fourth quarter of the expense. Footing the bill at both Federal and State level is the hunter, the man who benefits directly from good game management by paying with his license and his gun and "sees" the cost of better hunting today and tomorrow.

Use of P-R funds is limited by law to (1) purchased development of lands for management purposes, (2) restoration of natural game habitats, (3) carrying out research leading to more effective management.

The sponsors of the Pittman-Robertson Act realized that income from the sales of hunting and fishing licenses are practically the one and only source of funds for most state wildlife agencies. By the time the license fee money is split among law enforcement, controlled hunts, administration, information dissemination, and a dozen other vital activities, the share for wildlife management becomes pretty thin. Yet, they recognized, in this era of increased hunting pressure complicated by loss or destruction of natural habitats, the very survival of good hunting depends on good and ("adequately supported") game management.

So the Pittman-Robertson Act was passed, providing that the Federal government may provide three-quarters of the cost of approved management projects, with the individual states putting up the fourth quarter of the expense. Footing the bill at both Federal and State level is the hunter, the man who benefits directly from good game management by paying with his license and his gun and "sees" the cost of better hunting today and tomorrow.

Use of P-R funds is limited by law to (1) purchased development of lands for management purposes, (2) restoration of natural game habitats, (3) carrying out research leading to more effective management.

Florida's share of P-R money in fiscal year 1958 came to $237,316 (out of a national total of $1,831,000). This amount was met by required matching funds of $79,106 from the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, to provide a budget of $218,422. With this financial support, the Game Management Division was able to report fiscal 1958 as one of Florida's most successful years in wildlife research and management.

The sponsors of the Pittman-Robertson Act realized that income from the sales of hunting and fishing licenses are practically the one and only source of funds for most state wildlife agencies. By the time the license fee money is split among law enforcement, controlled hunts, administration, information dissemination, and a dozen other vital activities, the share for wildlife management becomes pretty thin. Yet, they recognized, in this era of increased hunting pressure complicated by loss or destruction of natural habitats, the very survival of good hunting depends on good and ("adequately supported") game management.

So the Pittman-Robertson Act was passed, providing that the Federal government may provide three-quarters of the cost of approved management projects, with the individual states putting up the fourth quarter of the expense. Footing the bill at both Federal and State level is the hunter, the man who benefits directly from good game management by paying with his license and his gun and "sees" the cost of better hunting today and tomorrow.

Use of P-R funds is limited by law to (1) purchased development of lands for management purposes, (2) restoration of natural game habitats, (3) carrying out research leading to more effective management.

Florida's share of P-R money in fiscal year 1958 came to $237,316 (out of a national total of $1,831,000). This amount was met by required matching funds of $79,106 from the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, to provide a budget of $218,422. With this financial support, the Game Management Division was able to report fiscal 1958 as one of Florida's most successful years in wildlife research and management.

The sponsors of the Pittman-Robertson Act realized that income from the sales of hunting and fishing licenses are practically the one and only source of funds for most state wildlife agencies. By the time the license fee money is split among law enforcement, controlled hunts, administration, information dissemination, and a dozen other vital activities, the share for wildlife management becomes pretty thin. Yet, they recognized, in this era of increased hunting pressure complicated by loss or destruction of natural habitats, the very survival of good hunting depends on good and ("adequately supported") game management.

So the Pittman-Robertson Act was passed, providing that the Federal government may provide three-quarters of the cost of approved management projects, with the individual states putting up the fourth quarter of the expense. Footing the bill at both Federal and State level is the hunter, the man who benefits directly from good game management by paying with his license and his gun and "sees" the cost of better hunting today and tomorrow.

Use of P-R funds is limited by law to (1) purchased development of lands for management purposes, (2) restoration of natural game habitats, (3) carrying out research leading to more effective management.

Florida's share of P-R money in fiscal year 1958 came to $237,316 (out of a national total of $1,831,000). This amount was met by required matching funds of $79,106 from the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, to provide a budget of $218,422. With this financial support, the Game Management Division was able to report fiscal 1958 as one of Florida's most successful years in wildlife research and management.

The sponsors of the Pittman-Robertson Act realized that income from the sales of hunting and fishing licenses are practically the one and only source of funds for most state wildlife agencies. By the time the license fee money is split among law enforcement, controlled hunts, administration, information dissemination, and a dozen other vital activities, the share for wildlife management becomes pretty thin. Yet, they recognized, in this era of increased hunting pressure complicated by loss or destruction of natural habitats, the very survival of good hunting depends on good and ("adequately supported") game management.

So the Pittman-Robertson Act was passed, providing that the Federal government may provide three-quarters of the cost of approved management projects, with the individual states putting up the fourth quarter of the expense. Footing the bill at both Federal and State level is the hunter, the man who benefits directly from good game management by paying with his license and his gun and "sees" the cost of better hunting today and tomorrow.

Use of P-R funds is limited by law to (1) purchased development of lands for management purposes, (2) restoration of natural game habitats, (3) carrying out research leading to more effective management.

Florida's share of P-R money in fiscal year 1958 came to $237,316 (out of a national total of $1,831,000). This amount was met by required matching funds of $79,106 from the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, to provide a budget of $218,422. With this financial support, the Game Management Division was able to report fiscal 1958 as one of Florida's most successful years in wildlife research and management.

The sponsors of the Pittman-Robertson Act realized that income from the sales of hunting and fishing licenses are practically the one and only source of funds for most state wildlife agencies. By the time the license fee money is split among law enforcement, controlled hunts, administration, information dissemination, and a dozen other vital activities, the share for wildlife management becomes pretty thin. Yet, they recognized, in this era of increased hunting pressure complicated by loss or destruction of natural habitats, the very survival of good hunting depends on good and ("adequately supported") game management.

So the Pittman-Robertson Act was passed, providing that the Federal government may provide three-quarters of the cost of approved management projects, with the individual states putting up the fourth quarter of the expense. Footing the bill at both Federal and State level is the hunter, the man who benefits directly from good game management by paying with his license and his gun and "sees" the cost of better hunting today and tomorrow.

Use of P-R funds is limited by law to (1) purchased development of lands for management purposes, (2) restoration of natural game habitats, (3) carrying out research leading to more effective management.

Florida's share of P-R money in fiscal year 1958 came to $237,316 (out of a national total of $1,831,000). This amount was met by required matching funds of $79,106 from the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, to provide a budget of $218,422. With this financial support, the Game Management Division was able to report fiscal 1958 as one of Florida's most successful years in wildlife research and management.

The sponsors of the Pittman-Robertson Act realized that income from the sales of hunting and fishing licenses are practically the one and only source of funds for most state wildlife agencies. By the time the license fee money is split among law enforcement, controlled hunts, administration, information dissemination, and a dozen other vital activities, the share for wildlife management becomes pretty thin. Yet, they recognized, in this era of increased hunting pressure complicated by loss or destruction of natural habitats, the very survival of good hunting depends on good and ("adequately supported") game management.

So the Pittman-Robertson Act was passed, providing that the Federal government may provide three-quarters of the cost of approved management projects, with the individual states putting up the fourth quarter of the expense. Footing the bill at both Federal and State level is the hunter, the man who benefits directly from good game management by paying with his license and his gun and "sees" the cost of better hunting today and tomorrow.

Use of P-R funds is limited by law to (1) purchased development of lands for management purposes, (2) restoration of natural game habitats, (3) carrying out research leading to more effective management.
so on, to learn new ways to improve the land for hunting. The wildlife itself was studied for clues to how effective past management practices had been and for new approaches to the problem.

In Charlotte County, a study of the bobwhite was resuscitated in full force, with good results to show for the effort. Management experts there operated a total of 378 feeders on the bobwhite experimental area. A managed hunt from 16 November to 22 December in the area netted 3,729 birds. This was a fine harvest that left more than enough bobwhites for next year's broods on a habitat with sufficient food and cover for their increase.

From their regular periodic surveys by air, Commission scientists discovered that Florida's duck population was down about 25 percent from the average last year. A decline in mallards, blacks, teal, ballpits, and coot led the drop. Ringnecks were in about average numbers, while canvasbacks and redheads were actually more abundant than usual.

In view of this picture of decline in duck hunting, work of the Game Management Division on the Guana River in northeast Florida is especially encouraging. This small tidal river was dammed off this year, creating a sizeable brackish water lake some three feet in depth, calculated to attract wintering waterfowl. Funds for lease and eventual purchase of the land, construction of the dam, planting of the lake in inviting vegetation for the ducks, and management all come from P-R and matching funds. The Guana River management area will be used for public waterfowl hunting in the future.

The annual deer harvest by sportmen makes up one of Florida's most important "crops." Therefore, the Commission is especially interested in research and management practices that will improve the size and quality of Florida deer herds. Its work on deer is concentrated in two management areas: Edgin Field Air Force Base, in the Florida panhandle, and in Ocala National Forest, in the upper central section of the state.

Just before the controlled hunting season last year, the P-R supported game management experts were able to estimate a total deer population of 12,500 in the 461,000-acre Edgin Field reservation. At the end of the hunting season, this number was about 6,800 animals—only a portion of the decline due to hunting. This carry-over is almost five percent higher than the post-hunting season population in 1955.

Archers took just six bucks during the controlled bow-and-arrow hunt which lasted 16 days, although 200 would-be Bobkin Hounds participated. In 21 days 87,080 acres were opened to the reservation, hunters took a reported total of 677 bucks. Out-doing our hunters, however, were the running dogs, which took an estimated 1,300 deer during the year.

With a far-ranging success rate of nearly 40 percent, prospects for the Eglin herd this year appear good. Meanwhile, the management experts continue to improve the area for better deer yields. They examined deer stomachs, finding a high percentage of live oak browse. They will follow this clue, and if it continues to be an important deer food, means of encouraging live oak browse growth will be worked out.

In the Ocala reservation, an average of nearly 20 deer tracks a mile indicate a numerous population. During the controlled hunting season there, a known total of 781 deer were taken. The management scientists made one rather alarming find, however; the average weight of the bucks taken was only 105 pounds each, the lowest on record for the area. This poor showing may be due to a failure of the acorn crop that season, Commission experts pointed out. On the plus side, they found only 16 cases of screw worm in the animals.

A large part of deer management is providing the best food for them. One of these important foods in the humble mushroom. So the Ocala workers spent considerable effort in puzzling out means of increasing wild mushroom production in the deer reservations as another boost to the herd. Also, under this P-R supported program, plans are that deer commonly found on Eglin and Ocala Reservations were analyzed for their nutritional values. Findings from this mine their nutritional values. Findings from this mine their nutritional values. Findings from this mine their nutritional values. Findings from this mine their nutritional values. Findings from this mine their nutritional values. Findings from this mine their nutritional values. Findings from this mine their nutritional values. Findings from this mine their nutritional values. Findings from this mine their nutritional values. Findings from this mine their nutritional values. Findings from this mine their nutritional values. Findings from this mine their nutritional values. Findings from this mine their nutritional values. Findings from this mine their nutritional values. Findings from this mine their nutritional values. Findings from this mine their nutritional values. Findings from this mine their nutritional values. Findings from this mine their nutritional values. Findings from this mine their nutritional values.
THRUWAY VIA THE SKY

State and Federal agencies are working along the eastern seaboard to provide adequate stopping-off places for waterfowl on their fall flights to Florida.

By CLEVELAND VAN DRESSER

The waterfowl simply avoided big cities like Boston, New York, Baltimore and Washington and made the journey by easy stages, stopping enroute to feed and rest. During the past ten years, however, the flight has become more difficult. Cities and towns along the route have spread out in alarming fashion; marshes have been drained, and industrial plants have been built along the coastline in increasing numbers.

All this expansion has resulted in less and less feeding and resting areas for the birds, which in turn has resulted in a trip fraught with more and more hazards. Couple this situation with ever increasing hunting pressure and you can realize that the Atlantic Flyway is no longer the carefree aerial journey that it once was.

True, there still are considerable areas of marsh and shoreline, both state and privately-owned, that offer resting places for migratory waterfowl. Indeed, without them, there would be no Atlantic Flyway, and bluebills, pintails, teal, etc., would have a devil of a time making the trip down the coast to the Sunshine State.

To offset the loss of suitable and necessary duck habitat, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has set aside, and in some cases has literally "built" areas for waterfowl in order to insure their safe passage for 1,500 miles down the Atlantic Coast to Florida. Most of the birds that use the Atlantic Flyway nest in the provinces of Quebec and Eastern Ontario Canada, although some birds make their homes in the various refuges and privately-owned areas along the route. Without these federal refuge areas, the duck populations that annually reach Florida would be drastically reduced. They simply couldn't make the trip in the face of the odds they otherwise would encounter.

I have driven up and down the coast via auto-

found along the coast.

Around a half million mallards pass through the state each winter. A like number of ringbill and pintails make Florida their annual wintering grounds.

Canvasbacks are more rare, and only about 100,000 of these prized waterfowl get to Florida. Most of them winter in the Kinsmanne Valley, along with 100,000 redheads.

The balance of the Florida winter waterfowl population is made up of 200,000 miscellaneous ducks, including greater scaups, ruddys, baldpates, gadwalls and shovelers. (No attempt is made here to estimate the duck population, but it is safe to say it runs well into the millions.)

Let us assume it is late in October, and waterfowl of every description have massed in the Chesapeake Bay area preparing to fly south for the winter. They are all over the place, with a goodly number of them taking it easy in three federal refuges in the Bay region. These areas, totalling 25,296 acres, are Blackwater in Maryland, and Chincoteague and Back Bay in Virginia. These areas, like most other federal waterfowl refuges, are more than mere places where a duck or goose may rest and feed. The Fish and Wildlife Service conducts well planned and concentrated food planting programs, including wheat, corn, millet, buckwheat, soybean, and three-square barley. Goose browse is provided by latrine drover and other grasses.

The purpose of all this food planting is to make possible the existence and support of many more waterfowl per acre than would ordinarily be the case. Without the extensive planting and raising of duck food, such areas would not maintain nearly as many ducks and geese as they now do, and thus the Atlantic Flyway would be sharply curtailed.

Come now the first taste of cold weather, and the birds prepare to leave for warmer climes. The blue-winged teal are the first to take off. With a rapid wing beat these bullets like speedsters leave the Chesapeake Bay area headed south. They are soon followed by pintails, canvasbacks, ruddys, baldpates, greater scaups, redheads, gadwalls, etc., and (Continued on Page 47)
I was one of those frustrating dove-shooting days when a fellow feels like wrapping his pet shotgun around the nearest tree.

I was crouched on a small knoll, between a grainfield and waterhole, with a steady migration of nomadic doves parading between the two. The sun, plun- sombly setting over the western horizon, was at my back. There was no glare, and clouds cast patches of shadow over the countryside to silhouette the light-colored bodies of approaching birds. Because of the short hop between food and water, the doves remained low, zipping just over the treetops along the knoll. It was a perfect set-up. Only one thing was wrong. I couldn’t have the side of a barn if I’d been inside with the door shut.

I’m like a baseball player who is in a batting slump. The more I try to analyze my faults, the worse my shooting seems to get. At first I was connecting on a few scattered singles, but now I couldn’t do a thing right, no matter how easy the shot appeared. In fact, the easier the shot, the more I bungled.

There was another hunter down the knoll a way. I couldn’t see him for the trees, but each time a flock of doves winged over I could hear him shoot. He was deadly. Seldom did he shoot that a dove didn’t tumble out of the sky.

Finally, in desperation, I paused to rest. I walked down the side of a wallow and could see the other shooter. I sat down with my back against a tree, and watched. He was an elderly man, around seventy I guessed. He was sitting in a canvas-bag chair, hidden on the fringe of a small clearing. When a dove approached, he picked it up when it was still out of range. His gun barrel flowed smoothly, keeping in rhythm with the passing dove. At a point just when the dove was at right angle with his position, he nailed it.

As with a golfer, you can tell a good shot by his swing. You could see this veteran knew his business. He seemed to put out no effort at all, The gun moved naturally.

A few dozen minutes later the old man paused to get a drink from a thermos bottle. I got up and walked down to where he sat. After a proper exchange of greetings, I asked him his secret on dove shooting.

"Tain’t no secret," he said matter-of-factly. "I just shoot where they ain’t."

He must have noticed my dumbfounded expression for he quickly added, "Son, most folks don’t realize how fast a dove can scoot along. They don’t lead on enough. To hit ’em consistently you got to shoot way out in front, out where they ain’t."

After a few moments of chat, I thanked him for his advice and walked back to my position down the knoll. Only when I’d get a hundred or so feet away did I realize that I’d never learned the old-timer’s basic secret. Shortly after I’d settled I spied a flock of doves heading toward me. I walked tensely. When they were almost in range, I put the bead on the lead one. The barrel followed along behind, then continued ahead as the dove crossed at a tangent. I widened the gap between barrel and bird until I had an ample lead. When. I depressed the trigger the second bird was stopped as if it had hit an invisible wall. It cowered downward to hit almost at my feet.

Photograph by John A. Johnson

A territory the hunting dove is in a quirt or corn field. The use of a retriever can help prevent the loss of birds which, through their tremendous speed, may drop a considerable distance away.
By DON SHINER

DOWN FLORIDA-WAY, hunters find coconuts big and round, enough to make calls from the shells of the world's largest nuts. In fact, for the best part of a century, old-timers as far north as central Pennsylvania have been using the coconut shell turkey call, which is as old that its beginning is lost in antiquity.

The age, however, has no bearing on the quality of this call. Turkeys have talked the same language for generations, and the latest to be gobbling in the beech groves this year will listen and become fascinated by the same talk squeaked for a century from the coconut shell.

There is no way of estimating the number of bearded toms that fell into the cook pot because they were lured into gun range by the sweet talk from the call. Perhaps just as many, if not more, will be follow-

MOUNT THE SAME TRAIL TO THE KITCHEN RANGE THIS YEAR AND IN FUTURE SEASONS.
The Truth About Black Panthers

The Florida panther is normally brown in color, but may appear black in an excited individual who has perspired just prior to being shot or wounded. Only a few "black panthers" have been reported, but they are not true panthers. The Florida panther population is small and isolated, and the survival of the species is threatened by habitat loss and retaliatory hunting.

By Bob DAWKINS, Chief Information Officer, Florida Department of Environmental Regulation

Floridians' black panthers cannot be considered authentic.

The following report of a black panther in Florida appeared in The Sept. 1, 1998 issue of the Titusville News-Advocate.

Two Black Panthers in Area West Of City

Early Last Week

There's a black panther living in the area west of Titusville, as reported on two different occasions during the past few days. Early last week two Orlando residents coming from Titusville to Florida saw a black panther along the highway near the Orlando cut-off branches from Highway 92 west of Indian River City. Over the past week another motorist reported seeing such a panther along the roadway in the same area. The panther is said to be quite large, estimated at some 60 to 180 pounds and about three feet tall.

At the very least, it seems certain that they are some type of animal that they judged to be a panther. Why then do most of the press reports involve "black panthers"?

One possibility is that the report of an ordinary cinnamon-brown colored panther draws little attention to the press. But a report of a "black panther" is more dramatic and draws more attention from the press, as may be that many of the "panther" reports are ignorant but the "black panther" reports are emphasized.

In any event, it cannot be doubted that a portion or all of the black-panther reporters are seeing something; the question is "what are they seeing?"

The statement is often made that, despite numerous sighting reports, there are "definitely no black panthers" in Florida, according to game authorities.

The statement is accurate, but not quite complete. Actually, the situation is this:

In the strictest sense, there is no "species or variety of animal anywhere in the world that can be properly called "black panther." What most people know and call "black panther" is a black color phase of the Florida panther. Black-colored leopards are considered rare in Africa, but slightly more common in India. We usually associate those color phases with their normal coloration.

But it is possible to have a group of animals from one locality in an unusual color phase. It is also possible to have one specimen of animal that may appear as albinos or a melanistic panther. This has been the case in Florida.
Juvenile Arson

By JOHN H. DANAHY, JR.
Florida Forest Service

Juvenile Arson is a serious problem in our society, and one that demands immediate attention. In recent years, the number of juvenile arsons has increased significantly. This problem is not limited to any particular age group or geographic area. It affects communities across the United States, and the impact of these fires can be devastating to individuals, families, and communities.

Juvenile arson is a serious crime that poses a significant threat to public safety. The fires started by juveniles can cause extensive damage to property and the environment, and they can also result in injuries and even fatalities.

Juvenile Arson Prevention

Prevention is key to addressing the issue of juvenile arson. This involves educating young people about the dangers and consequences of arson, and providing them with alternative ways to express their emotions and frustrations.

Schools and communities can play a crucial role in preventing juvenile arson by offering programs that teach young people about the importance of safety and responsibility. These programs can include workshops, seminars, and other educational initiatives that help young people develop positive coping mechanisms.

Law Enforcement

Law enforcement agencies also play a critical role in addressing juvenile arson. This includes investigating fires that are suspected to be arson, and working closely with juveniles who have been identified as suspects.

Juvenile arson cases require a unique approach to law enforcement. This includes working with juvenile probation officers, social workers, and other professionals to develop individualized programs that address the underlying causes of the behavior.

Conclusion

Juvenile arson is a serious problem that requires a multi-faceted approach to prevention, education, and law enforcement. By working together, we can make our communities safer and prevent this dangerous behavior from harming our young people and our communities in the future.
Dealing with delinquency actions often requires understanding the underlying factors and implementing effective interventions. The juvenile justice system faces considerable challenges in addressing the needs of young offenders and preventing further crimes. Various strategies are employed, including counseling, education, and alternative punishments, to deter future delinquency. Community involvement and collaboration among law enforcement, schools, and families are crucial to creating a supportive environment for youth development.

A recent study highlights the importance of early intervention and education programs to prevent juveniles from becoming involved in delinquent behavior. These programs aim to address the root causes of delinquency, such as poverty, lack of supervision, and exposure to negative peer influences. By focusing on prevention, communities can reduce the number of juveniles who enter the criminal justice system.

In conclusion, the juvenile justice system continues to evolve as it seeks more effective ways to handle delinquency cases. Collaboration among agencies, investment in community programs, and evidence-based practices are key to addressing the complex issues facing young offenders. Continued research and innovative approaches are essential to ensure that juveniles receive the support they need to make positive life choices.
BOAT GADGETS FOR ANGLER AND HUNTER

By PAUL MCALESTER

In Florida, the duck hunter and the fisherman pursue vastly different quarry, but a man devoted to either sport can come across a lot of gimmicks useful to the other.

While their sports are different, the waterfowl gunner and angler have several things in common.

For one thing, they both stick pretty close to boats. And usually, their activities take them around some pretty big, and at times wild, bodies of water.

Working around the state's big inland lakes, the Everglades and loosely coastal stretches is no child's play. Florida is still considered a frontier state—and rightly so.

Many of the places where the duck-hunting and fishing are best are remote spots, where a man is pretty much on his own.

Most of Florida's hunters and fishermen are in the same financial boat—they enjoy their sport on a shoe-string budget. There's a lot of fancy gear they'd like to have, but there is no money for it.

Over years of fishing and waterfowling afloat, I've followed the idea that "necessity is the mother of invention." It's helped me to develop a number of low-cost gadgets which have made my fishing and hunting a lot safer and much more fun.

With a minimum of effort and expense, you can be well prepared for any hunting or fishing jaunt afloat.

These gadgets include a portable navigation table and compass binnacle, which doubles as a waterproof equipment box; a portable but powerful searchlight, expensive boat camouflage and a variety of navigational aids which somehow keep me from getting lost too many times.

I've found that the surplus store is a veritable treasure-cave of equipment which I can own at a fraction of its regular cost. And I'm a faithful rummager in such places.

All year round, there are too many stories in Florida newspapers about hunters and fishermen lost, or who have met with avoidable accidents.

One sure way to avoid marring a good hunting or fishing trip is to have the right kind of equipment—and to know how to use it. Good equipment, used properly and coupled with common sense can contribute a lot of added enjoyment to any outing—and it can mean the difference between a memorable trip or disaster.

To me, the biggest lure of fishing and hunting to Florida is its very wild, remote nature. A fellow can be a million miles from nowhere with just a few short hours' driving from the big cities.

But to get so far away from civilization carries a

A compass binnacle is created by installing prop under lot of boat's waterproof gear box. Flashlight with shield at right lights compass directly from the bottom of the boat. (Continued on next Page).

Continued on next Page
Battler was a pole with sufficient reach and strength to serve as a guide through dense marshland.

The battery was put into a second waterproof box, with folding carrying handles, just like the damage box described earlier.

At first, the lamp worked fine, but the sealed-beam unit quickly burned out. I found that it had been made for signaling only, and would not stay above 200 volts. A 12-volt unit was then attached to the second and third clips firmly onto the battery terminals.

When hunting, the boatman should carry a mirror to reflect the boat’s light. If a boat is lost in the grass or reeds, there’s enough of a beam to guide searchers.

The beam often isn’t enough. To light the way along a twisting narrow inlet, a narrow beam of about $18, the boatman can equip himself with a

(Continued on Page 41)

**Wildlife Management Areas**

**MANAGEMENT AREAS**

This season the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission will have open to hunting a total of 3,450,000 acres of land within the Wildlife Management Areas.

In addition, regular hunting license, a public hunt permit is required for the following: hunting for pheasant and rabbit hunting on the northern plains.

To hunt on the public land, a public hunt permit is required. A public hunt permit is issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the G. M. Webb Area where a $50.00 daily permit is required, and the C. M. Webb Area, where a $50.00 daily permit is required, and then a combination permit, $50.00 public hunt permit, $50.00 state permit, and the G. M. Webb Area where a $50.00 daily permit is required, and then a combination permit, $50.00 public hunt permit, $50.00 state permit, and the C. M. Webb Area, where a $50.00 daily permit is required, and then a combination permit.

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE**

**November, 1959**

**Florida Fish Service**

**U.S. Air Force**

**Private**

**U.S. Forest Service**

**Private**

**U.S. Corps of Engineers**

**Private**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

**Private**

**Private**

**Florida Fish Service**

**Private**

**Private**

**State Armory Board**

**Private**

**Florida Park Service**

**Private**

**Private**

**Private**

**Private**

**Private**

**Private**

**Private**

**Game & Fresh Water Fish Comm.**

**Private**

**Game & Fresh Water Fish Comm.**

**Private**

**Private**

**Private**

**Private**

**Central & Southern Florida Flood Control District**

**Acres Open to Hunters**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Acres Open to Hunters</th>
<th>Acres Closed To Hunters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Riviera (41)</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estero (38)</td>
<td>210,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seawall (13)</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dollar (11)</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utica (8)</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomoka (6)</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Johns River (39)</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seabrook (37)</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sebastian (35)</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merritt Island (34)</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Marys (33)</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Marys River (32)</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Johns River (31)</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Johns River (30)</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Johns River (29)</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Acres Closed To Hunters**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Acres Closed To Hunters</th>
<th>Acres Closed To Hunters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Riviera (41)</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estero (38)</td>
<td>210,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seawall (13)</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dollar (11)</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utica (8)</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomoka (6)</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Johns River (39)</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seabrook (37)</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sebastian (35)</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merritt Island (34)</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Marys (33)</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Marys River (32)</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Johns River (31)</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Johns River (30)</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Johns River (29)</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ownership**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Acres Open to Hunters</th>
<th>Acres Closed To Hunters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Riviera (41)</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estero (38)</td>
<td>210,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seawall (13)</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dollar (11)</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utica (8)</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomoka (6)</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Johns River (39)</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seabrook (37)</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sebastian (35)</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merritt Island (34)</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Marys (33)</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Marys River (32)</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Johns River (31)</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Johns River (30)</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Johns River (29)</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**County**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Acres Open to Hunters</th>
<th>Acres Closed To Hunters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Riviera (41)</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estero (38)</td>
<td>210,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seawall (13)</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dollar (11)</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utica (8)</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomoka (6)</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Johns River (39)</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seabrook (37)</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sebastian (35)</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merritt Island (34)</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Marys (33)</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Marys River (32)</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Johns River (31)</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Johns River (30)</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Johns River (29)</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ownership**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Acres Open to Hunters</th>
<th>Acres Closed To Hunters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Riviera (41)</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estero (38)</td>
<td>210,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seawall (13)</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dollar (11)</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utica (8)</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomoka (6)</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Johns River (39)</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seabrook (37)</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sebastian (35)</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merritt Island (34)</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Marys (33)</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Marys River (32)</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Johns River (31)</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Johns River (30)</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Johns River (29)</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**County**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Acres Open to Hunters</th>
<th>Acres Closed To Hunters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Riviera (41)</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estero (38)</td>
<td>210,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seawall (13)</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dollar (11)</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utica (8)</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomoka (6)</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Johns River (39)</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seabrook (37)</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sebastian (35)</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merritt Island (34)</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Marys (33)</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Marys River (32)</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Johns River (31)</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Johns River (30)</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Johns River (29)</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IT CAN BE DONE

A cooperative program on what was once considered wasteland has produced a prime hunting area

By JIM REED

Checking stations are located at all streams passing to the public hunts area. A careful check of all game killed studies the Game Management Division to maintain an adequate program for continued good hunting.

That can be done for the hunters of Florida, in a comparatively small area, is being adequately demonstrated on the now 60,000 acre Farmton Management Area, located some 15 miles south of Daytona Beach, in Volusia and Brevard Counties.

This area had, at one time, been reduced to worthless wasteland due to extensive wildlife that had been completely destroyed timber, and other desirable growth. Scrub palmetto and wire grass took over and choked out all suitable vegetation necessary for wildlife. This poor habitat and hunting pressure kept remaining game birds and animals at very low population levels and the land, in this condition, received little notice in the real estate department.

First rehabilitation phase of this area was done about a little over 20 years ago, when the Miami Corporation realized that proper land management could return the area to a fine timber-producing condition. After purchase, the corporation fenced the entire tract and permitted

The Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission started their program by displaying special signs along the entire fence line. These signs merely cautioned the prohibition of carrying dogs in the area and outlawed the running of dogs except during the regular hunting season. The graded roads were ideal for game-food plantings and were soon covered with carpet grass and Pogonomyrnis baha. These plantings also served to anchor the soil, preventing washing during heavy rains. Similar plantings were made along the fire and fence lines.

During the same period, a total of eight large food plots were cultivated into hibiscus and carpet grass as supplementary food for deer and turkey. These plots not only furnished food but provide ideal

Farmiton is on the Farmton Management Area are profusely impartmented. Game Management officers, Bob Gates, checks it the area which was planted to bubble gum.

Described because hunting pressure, both human game population are kept at or close to normal supporting levels. A herd of 101 deer were killed last season compared to the 31 taken during the opening 1957-58 season.

The largest land plot on the area is this 63 acres, cultivated for a planting of carpet grass.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE

NOVEMBER, 1958
White-crowned Pigeon, Columba leucophaea

This handsome member of the pigeon family is a bird of the tropical regions, occurring from the Keys and the Bahamas southward through the Greater Antilles. It is also a common resident about the Caribbean coast from Yucatan at least into Panama. In Florida it has been noted infrequently on the mainland north of the Cape Sable area. It is quite common, however, over the Keys. Apparently the birds arrive in the Keys sometime during March or early April. After the young of the year are able to fly well, the flocks start their migratory drift southward, usually sometime during the months of July or August. When seen close at hand under good lighting conditions, the striking white crown contrasting with the uniformly dark coloration of the rest of the plumage makes identification relatively simple. Usually, however, the area of observation (that is the Keys and the southern tip of the Peninsula) coupled with the typical, rather blocky pigeon form and the dark plumage makes field identification simple.

The white-crowned’s food supply consists essentially of a variety of wild berries, seeds, fruits, and insects. During earlier days these birds were heavily hunted in the Keys. The persecution of the species extended to the destruction of eggs and the squabs as well. Under the protection now afforded by State and Federal regulations, it appears that the White-crowned will long remain a part of tropical Florida’s birdlife.

Mourning Dove, Zenaida macroura

The Mourning Dove, abundant in numbers and swift of wing, is one of the South’s great game species, hunted with an avidity that mounts to a passion among its true devotees.

Nesting in a variety of sites including, quite commonly, the shade trees in many Florida towns, it is one of the best known of the State’s birds. Its small head and long pointed tail give it a sleek streamlined appearance. The mellow, melancholy cooing is one of the typical field and woodland sounds during the warmer months.

In suitable localities it is common throughout the year. It is during the fall however when great numbers of birds funnel down from the Mississippi flyway and east that some spectacular concentrations are noted.

Although the usual broad numbers only two, a pair of mourning doves may nest several times during the year in the deep south. Another factor that assures the continued abundance of the species is the fact that young birds, hatched in the spring, may themselves bring off a second brood of young before the short winter season brings a temporary slow down in nesting activities.

White-winged Dove, Zenaida asiatica

Now and then a hunter bags an unfamiliar bird of which, though definitely not unlike in appearance, is certainly different from the familiar Mourner. Chances are the “stranger” in the take is a white-wing. The tail shape and the shoulder area of the wings are here important areas to consider. A rounded tail, as contrasted with the mourner’s long sharp-tipped tail, plus a bold diagnostic white bar across the wings mark the mystery bird as a white-winged dove.

Familiar to gunners and bird students alike throughout the Southwest, until recent times it appeared that the white-wing was only a very occasional stranger to the Sunshine State. During recent years it has been reported from Florida with increasing frequency although it is by no means a common bird as is the closely related mourning dove. Individuals and small flocks of this species have been reported from various localities in the state, ranging from the Panhandle of the northwestern Florida to Key West.

It can be done

(Continued from Page 37)

Ground Dove, Columbapella passerina

This widely distributed little bird is known from South Carolina down through the Gulf states and westward to southern California. It ranges southwest through the Caribbean area, Central America, and into Brazil. It is most frequently seen walking rapidly about on the ground with its tail high and head bobbing energetically at every step. It seeks out grass and weed seeds which constitute a major portion of the food eaten by the species.

The ground dove shows a definite preference for dry open ground. When disturbed a bird will usually move off but a short distance in zigzag flight and soon alight on a convenient tree limb or drop to the ground. The reddish brown under surface of the wings is readily apparent when the bird is flushed at close range. This splash of color is an excellent identification characteristic.

This species is a resident throughout the state, from the northern portions down through southern Keys. From February to October seen most of the nesting activity, although, as with the mourning dove, it is reported during every month of the year. In common with others of its family, two eggs comprise the usual clutches.
The rain had slacked off considerably as we resumed hunting. The weather, however, remained chilly and unwelcoming. We were all used to Florida, even in December.

As the three of us waded slowly across a half-mile-wide cove I was surprised to see an empty outboard skiff anchored near the center. Two older-aged women had occupied the skiff. Now they were overboard delving into the nasty day, wading up to their thighs to chase bigmouth Florida trout on their fishing poles.

We had brought along a half dozen collapsible rubber decoys in case we might grow tired of walking. Now we threw these out in a shallow and concealed reed bed nearby. We had some success in the tall reeds nearby.

George's new gun was a Superposed Browning 20 gauge, with 26½ inch barrels, an exact replica of his Uncle Joe's, and he fingered it lovingly as he scanned the sky. Shortly a lone pintail came whistling over—high and going places against the low overcast. George's shotgun popped once… twice… but to no avail.

As the duck kept going there was a quick, deep explosion. Before I could turn around, the taxidermist connected with the bird's head. At a crack of a charge the pintail folded and splashed into the earthward. The gun had been so high it didn't even seem to be there, it had been at a hopeless distance, and never pulled trigger.

The pintail struck in the reeds with a loud splash. George was after it immediately, with the enthusiasm of a Labrador retriever. Quick though the boy was, however, he failed to return with the choice duck.

"Something pulled it under right before my eyes!" he blurted as he rejoined us in the blind. "Find a damn mudfish, or an otter, I could see it cutters and definitely in the absence of "he was looking down the lake- the stiff bird creeps against water, thinking, or searching." Water, while the graceful birds disappear toward the brightening horizon, I was reminded once more travel, with jeeps and similar equipment making a major expedition.

While the population of their sun-blessed state swallows at the alarming rate of more than 19,000 per year, the most likely threat was the walking unknown unappetizing and fishing areas becomes sharply obvious. At present, such sportmen, they be native or visitors, can drive quickly to this wonderful marsh site over good roads. They can still leave their cars practically where they choose and go wading or being untended and similar if one desires—a very minimum of difficulty or expense. It is true that there remains hundreds of square miles of game and drive marsh elsewhere in the Florida Everglades region, but such sites are not nearly so convenient—or so economical—to use. The tangled brush and deer famous Big Cypress Swamp usually involves several days of

MUDFISH PASS OVER THE TAIL NEEDLE IN WHICH WE CONCEALED THEM.
YOU ARE BEING STUNG

(Continued from Page 4)

air and ground equipment to broadcast the chemical (an oil carrier) at the rate of 20 pounds per acre. The USDA attempts to distribute the granules evenly — each square inch of the field receives 7 to 12 granules, each about the size of a grain of sugar. No bird or mammal could cross treated land without getting granules at every step! These chemicals are contact killed as well as stomach poisons. Consequently any bird, mammal, or other organism which walks upon, brushes against, or eats the granules may be affected. If not killed quickly birds may ingest, or swallows may accumulate enough poisons from repeated contacts with the granules to result in death. Secondary kill results when robins or woodcocks eat earthworms carrying some of the chemical in their body. Small or young worms are killed by the chemical, making older ones secure carriers. This cumulative or long term effect upon wildlife and other organisms is entirely un

known, for the program began only a relatively short time ago. The USDA reports (from work of Alabama investigators) that chemical residue remains in the soil for three to four years, so untold harm may have already occurred. People may be affected by the wash,ing down of this residue into streams and ponds, or by drinking water supplies. Likewise people are endangered by eating

(from treated areas or by eating

(fresh drinking milk) from animals

feeding in such areas.

These are real dangers. Biologists have reported upon immediate kills on other organisms in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas. Their studies are still in progress, but more research is needed. This takes money, trained personnel, and time. Although nearly four million dollars was appropriated for control operations, the vast fiscal year (1957-58), not one cent was appropriated for research in this important field or for its effect on wildlife. Huge appropriations were again set up for control during the fiscal year 1958-59, plus $125,000 to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by Congress, for research on pesticides and

JUVENILE ARSON

(Continued on Page 39)

placed them in Homes, detention or industrial schools. Their home life led to the theft of foods out of hunger. This unfortunate state seems preferable, however, because it was felt that the children might benefit from the separation. Records show, interestingly, that arson is not a crime of female vio

lators. The juvenile fires are almost without exception, set by boys. Girls may be involved either at the scene or in earlier activities which gave cause to the "thief seeking" mis

chievousness.

Florida law governing juvenile crime, as in most states, affords a sizeable measure of protection to the juvenile. It surprises many inform

ers of all law enforcement groups when they discover how well some youthful offenders know the law.

Even though the laws are designed to protect the juvenile, the serious and unintended may result, con

tinuing a young life of juvenile crime until a serious crime brands them for life.

Arson is the crime, but the motivation and deep rooted influences may be found in most youthful crime.

Juvenile forest arson is a serious problem in the United States. Juvenile arson is not a modern innegra

country. Over 2400 cases in 1957, Socrate wrote: "Children have been bad named, they show disrespect for their parents, and contradict their parents, etc. The problem is not new, but magnified in many ways.

If charity, which is the greatest virtue, has its foundation in the home, then there is the home, where lies the answer to juvenile crime. Among other things that are love and understanding, home with a charitable, loving home can raise a juvenile forest arsonist.

SHOOT WHERE THEY AIN'T

(Continued from Page 23)

holding. Presently, we saw four

lives coming in low from the control, breaking in another bright young sun

trucks. They covered the ground, they fired slightly as they flashed over the road. The peo

DISHOMESTIC

NORTH AMERICAN HUNTING

by Grancel Fitz, 188

pages, illustrated. Published by Oxford University Press, New York. Price $5.00.

This collection of autobiographical adventure stories is based on the ex

periences of a hunter who, in the course of 38 trips from 1926 to 1955, became the first man to hunt all 24 different classes of North American big game animals that can be legally taken. Grancel Fitz has collected record-class head of 13 different North American big game species—more than any other hunter.

Following an introductory discus

sion of the humanitarian aspects of hunting, this book gives a highly readable account of the author's ad

ventures as an American sportsman. Each of the tales is filled with sus

pense, whether he is hunting deer, elk, or moose. Mr. Fitz captures the essence of each situation by report

ing the reactions of the animals involved as accurately as the behavior of the animals themselves. His knowledge of a great diversity of game countries and hunting methods has given him an ability to compare the animals from the viewpoint of sport and an appreciation of the sub

tle
d

NORTH AMERICAN

MEDIUM SIZE

HUNTING, by Grancel Fitz, 188

pages, illustrated. Published by Oxford University Press, New York. Price $5.00.

HUNTING OUR MEDIUM SIZE

GAME, by Clyde Ormond, 219

pages. Published by The Stack


Thirty years ago a young fellow bagged his first trophy, an Idaho

back from the Yellow Jacket section. Today Clyde Ormond says, "I was very lucky then, I did everything wrong." Since that day his hunting techniques have been refined as experiences mounted with maturity. Today he is a renowned authority, a popular writer, a true hunting expert, and a student of the habits of game. Trips into the game

fields are frequent and elaborate.

HUNTING OUR MEDIUM SIZE

GAME is a companion piece to his first volume, YIELD OF THE O 0

This book offers the hunter a collection of stories of hunting through being big game. The hunter must employ knowledge, good judgment, skill and usually considerable effort to enjoy hunting.

This volume picks up where the first one left off. Aside from being great chair-adventure it includes: how-to information of the higher order of the following: deer, black bear, whitetails, moose, black bear, antelope, wolves, bobcats and coyotes. It also has 33 drawings on equipment, use of rifles, and care of venison.
The bug, hung in the bobbin, barely noticed the jerking. With the bend in the rod and the stretch in the line, very little pressure was actually reaching the popping bug, and the angler continued to jerk his rod as though some mad compulsion had him in its grip.

The end was inevitable—with a last wild heave, the tip section of the tortured rod broke free of the tangle. No longer able to abuse the broken rod, this angler then picked up the line, and, pulling by hand, easily freed the bug. I passed our broken-rod fisherman in silence. I have no doubt he is still complaining about the poor quality of the rod he broke.

Jerking on a fly or spinning rod under such conditions subjects it to extreme strain, for which the rod was never intended. Worse—such jerking does not accomplish anything. Very little pressure can be exerted on the lure in this manner. If you get hung up and can’t go to the lure to free it by hand, the next best thing is to take the line in your hands and begin a steady pull.

Pulling on the line by hand will, many times, free a lure that no amount of rod jerking will budge, and if a break does occur on a hand-pulled lure, at least your rod is safe, and the line will usually break at the knot at the lure or swivel. Abusing a rod by jerking it at a hung lure is not smart—it’s not even effective.

Bad Weather Guide

Last summer in Canada, Al Caputo and I arrived there during a stretch of really bad weather. It was cold and raining, blowing half a gale—really miserable. We sat around for a day and then could stand it no longer. We had the best guide available and went fishing.

Our host warned us we would have no luck in such weather. Our guide was very frank in advising us against going out. We were both wrong. It’s true we caught a lot of fish, but we reaped a harvest of valuable information.

Our guide was a real oldster who knew these waters intimately. He was much more concerned about our lack of success than we were. Our assurances that we expected very little apparently brought him small comfort. In his eagerness to get us even a bit of action, he took us from place to place, stopping just for the sake of fishing.

It soon became clear that our eager guide was visiting all his favorite places he had learned them years of guiding and fishing. His suggestions to us at each place were a blueprint for success at this step under normal conditions. We suddenly were hopeful not to catch anything. We were not disappointed. We spent almost an entire day without catching a thing, but we did collect a wonderful array of expert knowledge about where and how to fish these particular waters.

The average, good guide will take a day of fishing and find out a few of his favorite spots until you connect with several good fish. When he thinks you have your money’s worth, you are apt to see the fishing suddenly dropping off. This is as it should be, and I have no complaint with it. If you are going to fish unfamiliar water, a day or so with a guide is not only a must but an economy in the long run. I will take my advice and pick a day for your guided tour. You’ll probably catch few fish, but the edge you gather will be well worth the effort.

Here’s the beginning of a big suck—rolled oats, side bread, warm dog biscuits, scrumptious food, four, six, even most, meat scraps and live bait, a coat a crescent moon. Choose your own exact additions.

The Sack

I was at a beginning to get used to the sack when Paris decreed this new style must go. As a matter of fact, I rather liked the looks of the thing. Perhaps my tolerance of the new suck style is a holdover from the bait sack I’ve used in my fishing with great success.

Years ago, I was camping on the Kentucky River. I was trading fresh fish for fish from the river bottom farmers for fish. The farmers produced the fish, the fisherman produced blue and channel catfish, which were caught on a trotline. The catfish was live bait. It was easy to catch the catfish, but catching the chubs was no cinch. I finally settled on a sure-fire way to catch some bait fish.

I put one gummy sack inside another to make a double, burlap bag. Into this double sack, I dipped everything I could find that could possibly attract fish. I put in a couple boxes of rolled oats, a few pounds of cornmeal, diced in some wormy flour, a half box of meat scraps and bones beggarfish, a batcher sky full, added several state leaves of bread and all the garbage I could collect. I added a good size stone, wired the neck of the sack shut, and dug the whole thing in 10 to 15 feet of water just off my dock.

From then on, I had no trouble catching all the chubs I needed for bait. As a matter of fact, I also caught a lot of big bream and bass using my same cane pole and No. 16 hook baited with worms. Since then, I’ve used the bait sack many times. If you want to make a never-fail fishing hole for yourself, try it.

Double the sack to keep the goodies you put in from washing out too soon. Throw in anything that will rot, stink, swell, or ferment. Small fry from miles around will gather at your bait sack to sample the wonderful flavors seeping out. Big fish follow them. It’s this concentration that makes fishing good in the immediate areas.

Try a few bait sacks, varying the contents to determine which combination works best on your particular water. I remember one spot where the addition of a large cake of brown, laundry soap was the payoff, while another spot on a half remembered creek responded like magic to a sachet containing, among other things, a double handful of long green tobacco.

My final word on sacks is only to remark that those I’ve seen around here recently seem always to have lost the right contents to make them most attractive. Losing the sack will be a sacrifice. Some people, including Paris designers, never know when to leave well enough alone.

DRY YEARS HURT DIVING DUCKS

(Continued from Page 8)

of the Dakotas and southern Canada. In 1955 there were over 5,000,000 individual ducks in the southern portions of the prairie provinces of Canada but in July 1959 there were only about 1,700,000. The water index for the northern half of this area is 21 percent below the 1957 record and 66 percent below the 1955 level.

This condition affected all of the species which nest in the prairies and parkland areas but the canvassback which breeds over water was hit hardest because of their over-water nesting habits.

The 1958 winter waterfowl survey also indicated a serious decline in canvassbacks and redheads in the Atlanta, Mississippi and Central Flyways but an increase in the number of these birds in their wintering grounds in the Pacific Flyway. In the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways winter count, above, or two or more can be seen in 1958 as in 1954. In the Central Flyway, the percentage decrease in wintering numbers was not so pronounced while the survey numbers for some species seemed lower than in 1954.

Summer and winter data on the redhead both show that this species reached a peak in 1956 but dropped rapidly in 1957 and in 1958.

Restrictions which have been decreed for the fall hunting season limit one hunter in the Central, Mississippi and Atlantic hunting districts to one canvassback or two redheads or one canvassback and one redhead in the daily bag and to an aggregate of four in possession.
JUNIOR CONSERVATIONIST

BY DENVER STE. CLAIRE

Letters received in our office do not always vary and are interesting.

Recently we received a letter from Mrs. James Ross, Adviser for the St. Johns Junior Conservation Club of St. Augustine. In her letter Mrs. Ross asked several questions which are pertinent to the League. We answered these questions in our letter to her and believe that many of our readers would be interested in the answers.

Her first question was, "What color uniform is prescribed for League affiliates and when is it worn?"

The Board of Directors of the State Recreation League recommends khaki for the uniform. The girls may use the regular skirt or culottes.

The Bay County Girls unit wear ruffled Khaki and white shirts. Black ties and black shoes are also recommended by the Board.

Club members who have a uniform should wear it for all formal meetings, exhibits, fairs, conventions, and others in which a uniform would wear a uniform that is wrinkled or soiled. Be proud of your club. Be proud of your uniform.

To wear a state insignia of the Junior Conservation Club League the club must be operating with an advisor or advisors. It should have its own charter and officers. In case of course no new club would wear a uniform that is wrinkled or soiled. Be proud of your club. Be proud of your uniform.

The League insignia is worn on the right shoulder sleeve, one and one half inches from the shoulder. The insignia consists of a boy and girl holding a sign with the words "Junior Conservationist."

The letter received from Mrs. Ross inquired about the individual club member eligible for the Junior Conservationist of the Year Award. An award earned must be certified by the Board of Directors for the year and approved by the Supervisor of Youth Conservation Education in the State.

Another question answered was: The new president of the Junior Conservationist Camp may be elected by the president of the club, if the club is small, this may be permitted by the Board of Directors. The President should be well rehearsed and presented with dignity.

Some clubs open their members to the entire migration season almost alone on the weather. Cold weather sets in at Chesapeake Bay early, the flight starts early. For this reason, the birds arrive hawks on in Florida, the northerly migration starts late; but if spring arrives early, the birds start for Canada too.

It may irk some gunners that no shooting is allowed in the majority of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuges. However, the Congress is em-
FOR BETTER HUNTING

(Continued from Page 1)

Therefore, probably the most central task of the Game Management Division is to see that habitats are preserved and improved whenever possible for the good of the wildlife.

Danger spots to wildlife appear in the flood control measures being undertaken in many parts of the state. The building of ditches and dams, creation of reservoirs and the draining of swamps all inevitably affect the existing habitat in a drastic way. With P-R support and the close cooperation of other agencies involved in the flood control programs, the Commission is doing all it can to include the best interests of wildlife and its hunting possibilities in the planning and execution of the projects.

An example of the work of Commission experts in flood control planning is seen in a 245-page report on measures that should be taken in Kissimmee Basin flood control work to yield optimum benefit and benefit simultaneously the need for conservation against flood control.

To do this kind of job on game management in flood control areas, the Commission works closely with such agencies as the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District, U. S. Corps of Engineers, Soil Conservation Service, State Land Board, and the Commission in many other ways. By working in close cooperation, the effectiveness of all these agencies towards the wise use of our natural resources is vastly increased. As a result, the farmer, tourist, city dweller and hunter all receive the most good from the flood control measures.

Improving the fields and woodlands for game and for the hunter—takes the lion's share of the Game Management Division's time, energy and P-R money. For example, throughout Florida, 625 food plots were planted in legumes and grasses for quail, deer, dove, turkey and other species. Access roads were maintained and some 900 miles of old and new fire lanes plowed.

More of the same for southern Florida. Here rice, cutleaf and lesser amounts of other grasses and legumes were planted for the wildlife. New fences were constructed, roads repaired and bridges overhauled. Many hundreds of gallons of herbicide were dumped to help control river-choking water hyacinth and alligator weed. Ponds were drained for waterfowl usage and boat traffic.

All of this is long, tedious and expensive work—but it is absolutely vital to the continuation of good hunting in Florida.

So this is the kind of things your Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has been doing in the past year to assure good hunting for us this year and for many years to come.

This work is made possible by the Pittman-Robertson Act—a most logical act, since it automatically provides increased funds for management, hunting, protection and conservation of the fish and wildlife.

And a wise act, since it provides us sportmen with a way to help ourselves to better hunting. Remember those two little letters, then—P-R?

"Just a precaution sport. This is easy country out here this year." —Page 48

THE BLACK PANTHER

(Continued from Page 4)

animal long in captivity would be a difficult time surviving in the wild. Being a fast-growing and, with dependence of man, plus too little food and the right kind, would probably give a coarse capture of such an animal.

The second and third alternative are that people are inventing and increasing hunting and no traces left, as said, in effect, "I think that there is no small-normam-tan panther with muddied feet, or, viewed in a dim light.

Because of the food involved, people reporting "black panthers" should not be too surprised at the Reluth and its dilution in the Florida game.

However, like flying saucers, one can prove that there is no such animal.

On two things could prove that there is such an animal in Florida.

The actual capture or killing of a melanistic panther or a phase-blue panther. Since panther are now fully protected in Florida under special permit from the Game Commission, only then could it be proved—in advance—that the animal was a damaged livestock or endangers human settlement.

The possibility of melanistic panther suddenly appearing and doing livestock and then being killed under special permit is so remote as to be almost impossible.

The only practical solution would be a photograph, accompanied by actual foot-prints, or some sign of a panther bear. The photograph, by itself, could be, and undoubtedly would be, questioned by back-up of reliable evidence at the scene, or by panther tracks on the ground that could be examined by a trained authority.

Unfortunately, the best time to see a panther, an animal, is in the early morning, late evening and the middle of the night. The night

and the early and late hours are the worst possible times for good photographic results.

In all cases of panther reports, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission would appreciate and consider the valuable opportunity you may have or are aware of in the area, within the discreet interval of time.

The Florida smallmouth bass was tied to rest as non-existent since then when John F. Dye, manager of the State fisheries division, said, in effect, "I think that there is no smallmouth bass in Florida. All I can say is that neither I nor any other fisheries people have ever seen such a creature."

No qualified authority has ever seen a black panther in Florida. No authority expects to ever see such an animal.

Unless one pops up tomorrow, that is.

Remember to reprint all or part of this article granting proper credit is given to FLOIDA WILDLIFE Magazine.

CLUB NEWS

(Continued from Page 7)

After banquet-time, the recreativa. banquet-meeting was held on water safety and regulations, with speakers from the Florida Power Boat Squadron and the Outboard Boating Club.

Other important meetings were held by the Florida Archer's Association and the Junior Chamber of Commerce conservation committee. Saturday morning was occupied by the business meeting and election of officers of the Florida Wildlife Federation.

It is certain that the effects of the outstanding convention of conservation interests will long be felt in Florida. It's important to remember that the Florida Wildlife Federation is the central organizer of the entire event. It is surely an indication of the growing prestige of the Federation, as well as all other conservation organizations and interests in Florida.

November, 1958

FIELD TESTS AND TELLS

Among boaters, some were saying every possible factor that might affect their boating success, a low type power— one that attaches to the handle of the row and holds three or more oars—and is considered superior to shoulder type. Both style and design of the back oars.

Advisory committee monitors who point out to the boatman how to position the oars correctly, speeded into a fast passway by the boaters, instead or oars. A boatman who can throw a follow-up arrow housed in a special container.

FORTS has helped each type of oar with hunting arrows and then made natural arrows to deceive the alligator of a full length mirror. Beyond doubt, some qualities of quivers have a side to which it comes to the noticeable norm movement required for receiving the successive arrows often needed in hunting. Also, a low power under low and arrow supply into a simply carried unit, such as the two arrows together and ready for instant use. Existing securely positioned on the handle, the boater's feathered shafts do not positively as a modification string which is a convenion.

For those who pule the low type quiver, FORTS recommends the 1. C. W. Whitten Hook-n-Strut, which screams with a polyester-covered tip, one half and two oars. The low bow in a case and oars are placed at the limits of a bow and stick. Good for hunting of an arrow of a full length mirror. It gets the extra arrows the big-game hunter really needs for an arrow. It doubles as the action of the detachable quiver, too, because of the remarkable extendability of the p Meredith's "lifeline of sighted anger.

An arrow fires out on a deadeye arrow rest, ready for placement of the bow's arrow rest, ready for placement of the bow's arrow rest and suitable bow shooting. Total arm movement is only selection of an arrow's selection that required to select and one arrow's selection that required to select and the bow's arrow rest. Conventional arrow row success stories from a conventional arrow row success stories.
QUESTION: I am planning a Florida fishing vacation soon. Where shall I go on Lake Okeechobee to catch a big bass? How do I reach Blue Cypress Lake and are there cabins and meals available there? C. S. Baker, Crawfordsville, Ind.

ANSWER: Big bass are taken regularly from every part of Lake Okeechobee. What section will be hot when you get to Florida, I can't say, but right now, many big fish are being reported taken at Calusa Lodge near Moore Haven. Excellent accommodations and meals here. No accommodations or meals at Blue Cypress. Boats, motors, and bait available at Fisher's Camp. Blue Cypress Road runs north from Route 60, 10 miles east of Route 441. A public boat ramp and camping ground are now open. Accommodations at Vero Beach 20 miles away or the junction of 60 and 441, 10 miles away. C. S.

QUESTION: I want to buy a boat and motor for all-round Florida use. I'll want to use it in salt-water sometimes. What size boat and motor would be safe for me? W. A. Kraft, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

ANSWER: No boat is "safe" in less used with good judgment. Minimum size for your stated use would be a boat 15 to 16 feet long, well-built and of good design. I would not recommend a motor less than 15 or 18 horsepower. I use a Flair-Craft Fisherman and an 18-Horse Johnson with excellent results. C. S.

QUESTION: I am just beginning to use popping bags. I've been told that big ones are more effective than small ones. Is this true? C. W. Eas, Orlando, Fla.

ANSWER: It is not true. Oversized bags are difficult to cast and offer little, if any, advantage. The natural insects that surface-feeding fish prey upon are many times smaller than the average size popping bug. C. S.

QUESTION: The ferrule on an old but valued bamboo rod has become very loose. The company who made this rod is no longer in business. Shall I try to install a new ferrule myself or seek expert help? B. Raskin, Leesburg, Fla.

ANSWER: Try rubbing the male ferrule with a piece of beeswax. This treatment will "cure" many loose ferrules. If this fails, by all means take your rod to a competent rod repair shop. Incidentally, using a stick of Fer-Lube (made by Hedin) will do wonders for a ferrule that sticks or is too tight. C. S.

QUESTION: I have been using your "tube sister" with excellent results. Had a tough time finding just the right kind of tube to use in the tying. I finally thought of a soda straw. These work fine and are available everywhere. W. H. Foster, Louisville, Ky.

ANSWER: Glad you liked the tube knot. I use a plastic tube I get from my optician. These plastic tubes are used over the ear pieces on eyeglasses. No better than a soda straw but more durable. C. S.


ANSWER: I would recommend lightweight, spruce paddles in 5½ foot length for the front. I have always found Paige brand paddles satisfactory. Do not purchase paddles with metal binding on the blade tips. The nails will split the paddles and ruin them. C. S.

QUESTION: I am planning a Florida fishing vacation soon. Where shall I go on Lake Okeechobee to catch a big bass? How do I reach Blue Cypress Lake and are there cabins and meals available there? S. Baker, Crawfordsville, Ind.

ANSWER: Big bass are taken regularly from every part of Lake Okeechobee. What section will be hot when you get to Florida, I can't say, but right now, many big fish are being reported taken at Calusa Lodge near Moore Haven. Excellent accommodations and meals here. No accommodations or meals at Blue Cypress. Boats, motors, and bait available at Fisher's Camp. Blue Cypress Road runs north from Route 60, 10 miles east of Route 441. A public boat ramp and camping ground are now open. Accommodations at Vero Beach 20 miles away or the junction of 60 and 441, 10 miles away. C. S.

QUESTION: I will soon be visiting Florida and will want a practical light to use for frogging. Can you recommend a light to answer this purpose? E. J. Wettstein, Lincoln Park, Mich.

ANSWER: A standard frog light down here is made by the Ray-O-Vac people of Madison, Wisconsin. This light employs a lens, bulb, and reflector and is worn on an elastic band that fits around the head. The batteries are carried in a small pack and worn on the belt. This leaves hands free for wading. C. S.

QUESTION: I have a Gill horse with white sides. The color is shouldered in. I have a difficult time bringing the white from turning a dark, mottled gray. Is there anything I can do? G. Cary, Coral, Fla.

ANSWER: Wash your horse down with a detergent, then, using a small hand brush, scrub it with Bab-O Cleanser. It should come out white as snow. Running the horse in and out with fresh water after salt-water use will help prevent discoloration. C. S.

QUESTION: Where can I buy a boat and motor for all-round Florida use. I'll want to use it in the ocean sometimes. What size boat and motor would be safe for me? D. Pace, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

ANSWER: No boat is "safe" in less used with good judgment. Minimum size for your stated use would be a boat 15 to 16 feet long, well-built and of good design. I would not recommend a motor less than 15 or 18 horsepower. I use a Flair-Craft Fisherman and an 18-Horse Johnson with excellent results. C. S.

QUESTION: I'm going to Miami for a vacation this winter. Are there any places near Miami where I can go bass fishing? C. S.

ANSWER: You're in luck. Highbear water has made the Tamiami Canal and other waters close to Miami very productive. This may slowly work your way south and allow you to go in the water. Some50. Two or three kittens roam from a litter—young panthers are spotted until around six months of age.

"TRACKS"
SUBSCRIBE NOW TO
Florida Wildlife
The Florida Magazine for ALL Sportsmen

12 Big Issues of
Hunting and Fishing
for only $2.00

TWO YEARS, 24 ISSUES, $3.75
THREE YEARS, 36 ISSUES, $5.25